



County of Erie

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HEALTH ADVISORY #285

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Increased Reports of Pertussis and Vaccination Recommendations

Please distribute to Emergency Departments, Infection Control Departments, Employee Health Services, Infectious Disease Departments, Pediatrics, Director of Nursing, Medical Director, Pharmacy, Laboratory Director and all patient care areas.

SUMMARY

- Over the past month, the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) has experienced an increase in reported cases of pertussis, primarily among school-aged children and their household contacts. A total of 36 cases of lab-confirmed pertussis have been identified from January 1 through June 30, 2011.
- Providers should ensure that all patients are vaccinated according to the current recommendations for tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis (DTaP or Tdap).

BACKGROUND

Over the past month, the ECDOH has experienced an increase in reported cases of pertussis, primarily among school-aged children and their close personal contacts. A total of 36 cases of lab-confirmed pertussis have been identified from January 1 through June 30, 2011. Increases have also been identified across New York State.

The ECDOH reminds healthcare providers that vaccination is an important prevention and control strategy for pertussis. Providers should ensure that all patients are vaccinated according to the current recommendations for tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis (DTaP or Tdap).

In October 2010, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) expanded Tdap recommendations to include both under-vaccinated children and senior adults. On July 8, 2011, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Boostrix vaccine, a brand of Tdap, to prevent tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis in people ages 65 and older.

VACCINE RECOMMENDATIONS

Combination vaccines used to prevent diphtheria; tetanus and pertussis include DTaP and Tdap. DTaP is given to children younger than 7 years of age and Tdap is given to children over the age of 10 and adults.

Currently, the pertussis vaccines available in the United States are acellular pertussis antigens in combination with diphtheria and tetanus toxoids (DTaP, DTaP- combination vaccines, and Tdap).

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends a four-dose primary series of DTaP, administered at 2, 4, 6 and 15–18 months of age, followed by a fifth booster dose given at 4–6 years. In 2005 and 2006, the ACIP recommended the replacement of a single Td booster with a dose of Tdap for adolescents (ages 11–18) and adults (ages 19–64) who have not previously received Tdap.

On October 27, 2010, ACIP expanded Tdap recommendations to include both under-vaccinated children and senior adults. The new recommendations state that children aged 7-10 years who are not up-to-date with their childhood pertussis vaccinations should receive a single dose of Tdap.

Additionally, Tdap is recommended for adults aged 65 years and older who anticipate close contact with an infant and who have not previously received the vaccine. ACIP further recommended that Tdap be administered regardless of time since last tetanus and diphtheria-containing booster.

Tdap should also be offered to post-partum/breastfeeding women and families of infants, if possible, before discharge from the hospital or birthing center.

On February 23, 2011, ACIP recommended that all healthcare personnel who have not yet received a dose of Tdap, regardless of age, should be vaccinated. Vaccination of healthcare professionals can lessen the risk of infection for your most vulnerable patients.

REPORTING OF CONFIRMED OR SUSPECT CASES

All suspect, probable, or confirmed pertussis cases must be reported to the local health department in the county in which the individual resides. For Erie County residents, please call the Erie County Department of Health at **(716) 858-7697** (Monday – Friday 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

June 16, 2011 ECDOH Health Advisory regarding an increase in reported cases of pertussis:
<http://www2.erie.gov/health/sites/www2.erie.gov.health/files/uploads/pdfs/283.pdf>

For general information on pertussis from the CDC:
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/pertussis/default.htm>

Complete clinical information including recommendation for proper laboratory testing is available at:
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/surv-manual/chpt10-pertussis.htm#7>

Current treatment information is available at:
Recommended antimicrobial agents for the treatment and postexposure prophylaxis of pertussis; 2005 CDC guidelines. MMWR 2005;54(No. RR-14).
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5414a1.htm>

Vaccine recommendations are available by accessing:
Updated recommendations for use of tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), 2010
http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6001a4.htm?s_cid=mm6001a4_w

AAP letter to healthcare professionals regarding pertussis vaccination:
<http://www.aap.org/immunization/pediatricians/pdf/PertussisOutreachLetter2011.pdf>

Health Category Definitions:

Health Alert FLASH: conveys the highest level of importance due to a large-scale, catastrophic public health emergency; warrants immediate action or attention

Health Alert Priority: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention to a health problem or situation

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary

The Erie County Department of Health does not provide medical advice. The information provided on the Erie County Department of Health website is not an attempt to practice medicine and is not intended as a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. It is for informational purposes only. Always seek the advice of your personal physician or other qualified health provider with any questions you may have regarding a medical condition or issue. Never disregard professional medical advice or delay in seeking it because of the content found on the Erie County Department of Health website or this correspondence.

The ECDOH Health Alert & Advisory System is an e-mail notification system designed to alert community partners about important health related information. **You can sign up to receive alerts & advisories at**
www.erie.gov/health/services/health_professionals.asp.